

In all cases typical *Viola conspersa* was growing with the white-flowered form.

CIRCAEA CANADENSIS Hill. Collected on alluvial soil at the base of Whately Glen, Whately, August 6, 1930.

C. alpina L. and *C. latifolia* Hill grow in the same glen, so in this case all three species grow near together (see Professor Fernald's article in RHODORA 19: 87). Besides the distinguishing characteristics noted in that article by Professor Fernald, there is another very minor one: *C. alpina* has glabrous pedicels, *C. latifolia* quite hairy ones, and *C. canadensis* has only a few hairs on the pedicels, especially in the upper part.

ASTER INFIRMUS Michx. Another southern plant collected by Mr. Sargent in rocky woods in Holyoke-Westfield area, Sept. 27, 1934.

Specimens of all of the above are deposited in the Smith College Herbarium.

SMITH COLLEGE.

A NEW VARIETY OF SPARGANIUM AMERICANUM

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WHILE collecting in the pools and backwaters along the southern New Jersey coast during September, 1934, Mr. J. L. Edwards and the writer discovered in the Tuckerton Creek Pond a colony of a striking Sparganium, possessing the fruiting heads of *S. americanum*, but with the habit and foliage of the northern *S. chlorocarpum*. Collections were made and subsequent study of this material has seemed to indicate that these plants represent an undescribed coastal plain variety of the wide ranging *S. americanum*.

The Tuckerton plants possess rather dense fruiting heads, with the lowest one on the main branch of the inflorescence supra-axillary. The fruits are dark brown, opaque, and abruptly contracted at top and bottom, giving them the characteristic appearance of the fruits of *S. americanum*. The leaves, however, are stiff and narrow, as in *S. chlorocarpum*. This foliage character, coupled with the supra-axillary condition of some of the fruiting heads, seems to indicate affinity with that species, particularly since considerable significance has been attached to the relation of the heads to the bracts of the inflorescence.¹ Investigation by the writer of a large series of both

¹ See Fernald in RHODORA 24: 26-34. 1922.

americanum and *chlorocarpum* leads to the conclusion that the shape and texture of the fruits, along with the length of the fruiting styles, represent far more constant and reliable characters in separating the two species than the relation of the heads to the bracts of the inflorescence or the condition of the leaves. Consequently our New Jersey plants definitely must be placed under *S. americanum*.

The following key and redefinition of characters may help to clarify the relationship between these two species and their varieties:

- A. Fruiting heads very dense; the fruits dark brown, opaque, oblong, with a prominent, median, circumferential constriction, 2–2.5 mm. in diam., abruptly contracted at both ends; the fruiting styles 2.5–4.5 mm. long. *S. americanum*.
- B. Plants lax, the leaves soft and somewhat translucent, .6–1.2 cm. wide, not scarious-margined towards the base. Pistillate heads all truly axillary. *S. americanum*, var. *typicum*.
- B. Plants strict, the leaves rigid and coriaceous, 4–6 mm. wide, somewhat scarious-margined towards the base. *S. americanum*, var. *rigidum*.
- A. Fruiting heads relatively loose, the fruits greenish brown, lustrous, elliptical, 2–3 mm. in diam., gradually tapering towards each end; the fruiting styles 3.5–5 mm. long. Heads either supra-axillary or axillary. *S. chlorocarpum*.
- C. Heads remote or subremote, the lowest 12–95 cm. above the base of the plant. *S. chlorocarpum*, var. *typicum*.
- C. Heads crowded, not remote, 2–12 cm. above the base of the plant. *S. chlorocarpum*, var. *acaule*.

S. AMERICANUM Nutt. Throughout its range it exhibits a wide variation in foliage characters, the leaves varying all the way from rather broad, soft and translucent to quite stiff and narrow. Suspicions that this species might intergrade with *chlorocarpum* seem entirely unjustified, because, although the vegetative parts are extremely inconstant, the fruits furnish very reliable characters.

S. AMERICANUM, var. *TYPICUM*. The common, widespread form of the species.

S. AMERICANUM, var. **rigidum**, var. nov., var. *typico* affine, sed infimo capite pistillato conspicue supra-axillari; folia stricta et coriacea, ad 50 cm. longa 4–6 mm. lata, aliquatenus scario-marginata ad basin.—Eastern Massachusetts; southern New Jersey. TYPE in Gray Herb. and COTYPE in Clausen Herb.: on sandy bottom in Tuckerton Creek Pond, Tuckerton, Ocean Co., NEW JERSEY, September 22, 1934, *J. L. Edwards and R. T. Clausen* 1399.

In the herbarium of Cornell University are two other sheets of this variety. The first, collected at Atsion, in Burlington Co., New Jersey on September 5, 1927, by *A. Gershoy* (no. 20), has leaves to 5 mm. wide and the lowest head supra-axillary, 4 mm. above the bract; the

fruits are dull, dark brown, abruptly contracted into a short beak, 2.5–3 mm. long. The other is the collection of *A. J. Eames* from Framingham, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, which is flowering material with the styles 3 mm. long.

S. CHLOROCARPUM Rydb. var. *TYPICUM*. At North Spencer, Tioga Co., New York, occur plants which, although they possess each of the other characters of this species, have been considered atypical because all of the fruiting heads were axillary. If we consider the fruits, rather than the relative position of the heads to the bracts, to represent the primary character for determining *chlorocarpum*, then these forms would be definitely placed here. It seems desirable to alter our definition of this species to include plants both with axillary and supra-axillary heads.

S. CHLOROCARPUM Rydb. var. *ACAULE* (Beeby) Fernald. This variety strongly suggests a response to an altered ecological condition and seems doubtfully worthy of nomenclatorial distinction. Observations made by Dr. W. C. Muenscher and the writer during several seasons seem to indicate that *chlorocarpum*, var. *typicum* occurs in shallow water along the shores of ponds and streams, whereas the var. *acaule* is found more often up on the shores, in bogs removed from the water, or in places from which the water has receded during certain seasons. The relative position of the crowded fruiting heads towards the base of the plant seems to be the sole criterion for determining this variety. The difference in the size of the fruiting heads of *acaule* as compared with the typical variety seems insufficient to warrant use as a key character.

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A STATION FOR HYMENOPHYSA PUBESCENS IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

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LATE in April, 1936, I first noticed, from the window of a passing train, a colony of cruciferous plants growing on a high embankment along the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad a few blocks northwest of the 30th Street Station in Philadelphia. The broad leaves and flat-topped inflorescences strongly suggested *Lepidium Draba*, and as this is not a common introduction in the Philadelphia area the locality was